

REMARKS

The present Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated July 29, 2003, which set a three-month period for response, making this request due by October 29, 2003.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

In the Final Office Action, the previous rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, was withdrawn in response to the amendment filed June 11, 2003. The drawings are still objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every features of the invention specified in the claims, namely, the "combustion chamber". The rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,877,584 to Kato was maintained.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of newly added claim 12 and that amended claims 8-11 have been allowed, and for the indicated allowability of claims 3-7 if rewritten in independent form.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, attached herewith is an amended figure, showing the objected-to combustion chamber.

With regard to the continued rejection of claims 1 and 2 as anticipated by the Kato reference, the Applicants respectfully disagree that this reference discloses all of the features of the present invention as defined in claims 1 and 2.

The Examiner refers in the final Office Action to Figure 2 and to column 4, line 50 forward of the Kato reference. In Figure 2, the end facing the combustion chamber has a spark plug. The part of the center electrode 3 arranged to the

right of the center axis is shown in a view, such that on the right side, the surface of the center electrode can be seen. The section left of the center axis is shown in section, as shown by hatching. This type of illustration is widespread for illustrating spark plugs.

According to claim 1 of the present application, the center electrode has an electrode base body 5 with an end face 51, whereby an end section of the electrode base body ^{has} the shape of a truncated cone. A platelet 8 is attached to the end face 51, which, likewise, has the shape of a truncated cone. This arrangement is shown in Figure 2 of the present application, in which it operates as a sectional illustration, as provided in the description.

The Applicants have attached a series of sketches, illustrating the differences between the truncated cone of the present invention and the structure of the Kato reference.

Sketch 1 show the above-described structure of Figure 2 of the present application.

The patent to Kato describes a spark plug with a middle electrode, which has an electrode base body and a precious metal platelet. The precious metal platelet is connected with the electrode base body by means of a welded connection. Before welding of the electrode base body and the precious metal platelet, the precious metal platelet has a cylindrical shape (see column 4, line 55: disc shaped), while the end section of the electrode base body is formed partially in a truncated cone form (see attached sketch 2). By means of the welding process, a ring-shaped, round welding seam 51 is formed between the

electrode base body and the precious metal platelet (see attached sketch 3 and the left side of Kato's Figure 2).

From Figure 2 of Kato, it can be seen further that merely the outer surface of this round welding seam, like the outer surface of the base body, is formed as a truncated cone. The round welding seam, however, has no face surface in the sense of claim 1 of the present application. Likewise, the precious metal platelet is formed as a truncated cone. Before the welding process, the precious metal platelet is cylindrical and after the welding process, the precious metal platelet has a cylindrical section, which tapers to the side facing away from the combustion chamber in the region of the round welding seam.

As argued previously, in Kato, neither the remaining portion of the precious metal platelet 5 nor the common element formed from the precious metal platelet 51 and the precious metal platelet 5 have the shape of a truncated cone.

To more clearly distinguish this element, claim 1 has been amended to define specifically that "the previous metal platelet (8) is formed as a three-dimensional body in the shape of a truncated cone". The addition of the limitation that the platelet is a three-dimensional, truncated cone emphasizes the above-argued differences over the Kato patent, where only the outer surfaces of the welding seam and the electrode base body arguably could be viewed as having a truncated cone shape.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are also patentable over the cited references. The Applicants

col. 4, 5
after welding
core
reg. on
claim

further request withdrawal of the final rejection of claims 1 and 2 and reconsideration of the claims as herein presented.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

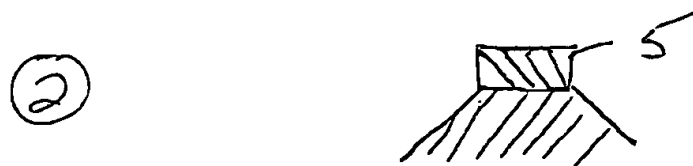
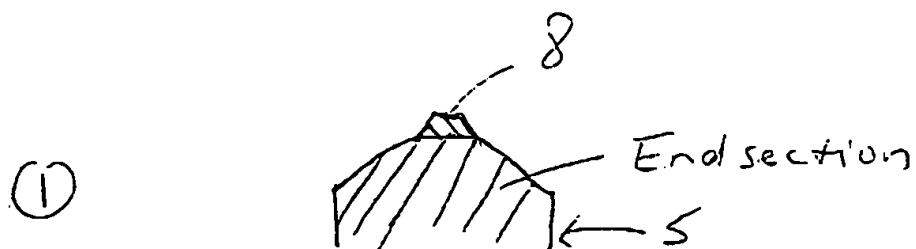


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SEP 23 2003

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Attachment A:

How about
section 33 of Koto

